



Senate

General Assembly

February Session, 2008

File No. 131

Senate Bill No. 284

Senate, March 25, 2008

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. HANDLEY of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR PERSONS PROVIDING SERVICES TO CLIENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of
2 Mental Health and Addiction Services shall require that each applicant
3 for an employment or volunteer position in the department submit to a
4 state criminal background check, a check of the Department of
5 Children and Families child abuse and neglect registry established
6 pursuant to section 17a-101k of the general statutes, and a check of the
7 Department of Developmental Services abuse or neglect registry
8 established pursuant to section 17a-247b of the 2008 supplement to the
9 general statutes. In addition, the commissioner may require that any
10 applicant for an employment or volunteer position in the department,
11 who has resided outside this state submit to a national criminal
12 background check. No applicant shall be hired or placed in a volunteer
13 position by the department until the results of such checks are

14 available.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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PH *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Departments of Mental Health & Addiction Services, Developmental Services, and Children and Families	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None**Explanation**

The bill requires all applicants for employment or volunteer positions with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) submit to a criminal background check. This will not result in a fiscal impact as it is current practice. The bill further requires that DMHAS check the abuse and neglect registries' of the departments of Children and Families and Developmental Services. This provision will not result in any increased cost to either department.

The Out Years

There is no fiscal impact in the out years.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 284*****AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR PERSONS PROVIDING SERVICES TO CLIENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires all applicants for jobs or volunteer positions in the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to submit to (1) a state criminal background check and (2) checks of the Children and Families and Developmental Services departments' abuse and neglect registries. It permits DMAHS to require any applicant who previously lived in another state to submit to a national criminal background check. It bars DMHAS from hiring an employee or placing a volunteer until the results of all checks are available. The bill conforms statute to the department's current practice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Yea 28 Nay 0